

2005 - 2010 Six Year Interstate/Primary Improvement Program

York County Project Requests

Introduction

York County is situated on the Virginia Peninsula, has a common border with all Peninsula localities, and is bisected by several of the Peninsula's major traffic arteries, including Interstate 64, Route 17 and Route 171. While York County's population grew by 33% in the 1990s, and now stands at approximately 61,000 residents, the traffic volumes on several segments of these major arterials have increased at an even greater rate. Improvements have not kept pace with needs created by the increased resident and commuter traffic. Particularly troublesome is the Route 17 corridor where increased traffic congestion is being fueled by commuter traffic from Gloucester County and beyond as well as by its function as York County's "Main Street." York County is extremely appreciative of the decisions made in 2002 and 2003 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and VDOT to program \$31 million for improvements on the segment of Route 17 between Routes 630 and 134. These funds will help begin the process of improving the capacity and safety of Route 17. However, without improvements to the segment between Route 134 and Route 171, a significant constriction of traffic flow will remain. Clearly, the County's highway network is not adequate to accommodate current needs, much less the demands that will be associated with future growth, and York County's project requests have been selected with that in mind.

Summary of Priorities

Priority 1 – Route 17 Widening from 4 to 6 lanes between Route 134 and Route 171

In 2002, the Commonwealth Transportation Board honored the County's long-standing requests for funding to accomplish improvements on Route 17 by approving \$17 million to be devoted to the segment between Routes 630 and 134. In 2003, the project budget was supplemented by an additional \$14 million, bringing the total allocation to \$31,357,000. York County expresses its sincere appreciation for this decision, particularly given the difficult funding issues that faced the CTB. The Board of Supervisors realizes that improvements to Route 17 will have to be funded in phases. However, the County believes that the already funded project can be made much more effective by supplementing the existing project budget with an additional \$7 million so that the 6-laning can be extended all the way to Route 171 (i.e., the Route 134 to Route 171 segment). This would

allow the project's southern terminus to reach Route 171, a major east-west artery serving the entire Lower Peninsula area.

Priority 2 – Route 105 Widening between Jefferson Avenue and Route 17

This project, at one time, had been scheduled for advertisement in October 2002. However, funding shortages caused it to revert to the Development Stage. The Board respectfully requests that it be programmed for Construction by including a sufficient allocation in the 2005-2010 Six-Year Program. This project will significantly improve capacity and safety between Jefferson Avenue and Route 17. In addition, it will complement the planned improvements to Route 17 and to Interstate 64 east of Route 105, and will significantly improve route options for travelers to or from the Middle Peninsula and points north.

Priority 3 – Interstate 64 Widening to Route 199 (east) Interchange

This project is a major priority of York County and other jurisdictions on the Virginia Peninsula. Interstate 64 is critical to the region's transportation network, its economy and its residents. It also serves as a vital link to Southside Hampton Roads. The segment between Jefferson Avenue (east) and Route 199 (east) has become a major "choke point" on many days and additional lane capacity is sorely needed.

Priority 4 – Route 171 Widening from 4 to 6 lanes between Route 17 and Route 134

This short, 1800-foot segment of Route 171 needs additional lane capacity in order to alleviate congestion that often backs up through its intersections with Routes 17 and 134. It is part of what has become a major east-west corridor on the Lower Peninsula. While planned turning lane improvements may help to alleviate some of the congestion, additional lane capacity is needed to provide major improvements in traffic flow.

Priority 5 – Route 171 Widening from 2 to 4 lanes between Route 134 and Poquoson

This project would improve capacity between Route 134 and the City of Poquoson. Route 171 serves as the main access route to many residential areas in lower York County and it is one of two evacuation routes from the City of Poquoson, and the only route that is relatively safe from tidal flooding.

Conclusion

York County appreciates the opportunity to submit its requests for transportation system improvements. The listed projects are included in the Hampton Roads 2021 Regional Transportation Plan and are fully consistent with the York County Comprehensive Plan. The Commonwealth Transportation Board has an unenviable task in trying to allocate too-scarce resources to address the ever-growing transportation system needs. York County appreciates the difficulty of this task and respectfully requests consideration of the listed projects.